



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Egan Field Office

HC33 Box 33500 (702 N. Industrial Way)

Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer To:

3809/2850 (NVL0100)

NVN-90444

Dear Interested Party:

The Pan Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated November 2013, has been completed and is now available for the public to view. The FEIS evaluates the environmental impacts that would result from the construction and operation of the Pan Mine Project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated regulations.

The proposed project would be located in the Pancake Mountain Range, in White Pine County, Nevada, approximately 50 miles west of Ely and 22 miles southeast of Eureka. The proposed project is an open-pit gold mine with two larger pits and four smaller pits, as well as crushing facilities and stockpiles; two waste rock disposal areas; a heap leach pad and associated conveyors; processing facilities and ponds; water supply wells; haul roads and access roads; ancillary facilities; and 69 kV transmission line. Construction and operation of the mine would result in approximately 3,204 acres of disturbance that includes the previously authorized exploration disturbance of 100 acres. Upon completion of mining, the operation would be reclaimed.

Three alternatives to the Proposed Action that were analyzed in the FEIS include the Southwest Power Line Alternative, Waste Rock Disposal Site Design Alternative, and No Action Alternative. The agency preferred alternative is a combination of the Southwest Power Line Alternative and the Waste Rock Disposal Site Design Alternative because they meet the purpose and need while reducing environmental impacts to greater sage-grouse in comparison to the Proposed Action.

The BLM prepared a Draft EIS that was issued to the public on March 22, 2013 with the publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The NOA initiated a public comment period that ended on May 7, 2013. Public meetings were held on the Draft EIS on April 9th and 10th, 2013 in Ely and Eureka, Nevada. Agencies, businesses, organizations, and interested parties submitted a total of 299 comments on the DEIS via mail and email. The comments received and responses to these comments are contained in Appendix 7A of the FEIS. Some comments resulted in modifications to the EIS.

The publication of the NOA for the Final EIS in the *Federal Register* initiates a minimum 30-day availability period. Following the availability period, the BLM may issue one or more Records of Decision based on the FEIS.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nv/>. Click on the Ely District map and then click on the Pan Mine Project under “In the Spotlight.” The FEIS is also available on the NEPA register at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. Project materials may also be viewed at the BLM Ely District Office, 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Persons wishing to provide BLM with comments on the FEIS should submit written comments to the BLM Ely District Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301, Attn: Miles Kreidler. Comments should be postmarked or otherwise delivered to the Egan Field Office by Thursday, December 19, 2013 to ensure full consideration. Comments may also be faxed to Kreidler at (775) 289-1910 or submitted electronically to BLM_NV_EYDO_Midway_Pan_EIS@blm.gov. Please make your comments as specific as possible.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – would be part of the public record for the project, and may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we would be able to do so.

If you would like any additional information, please contact Miles Kreidler, Project Manager, at (775) 289-1893 or mkreidler@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mindy Seal
acting for

Jill A. Moore
Field Manager
Egan Field Office